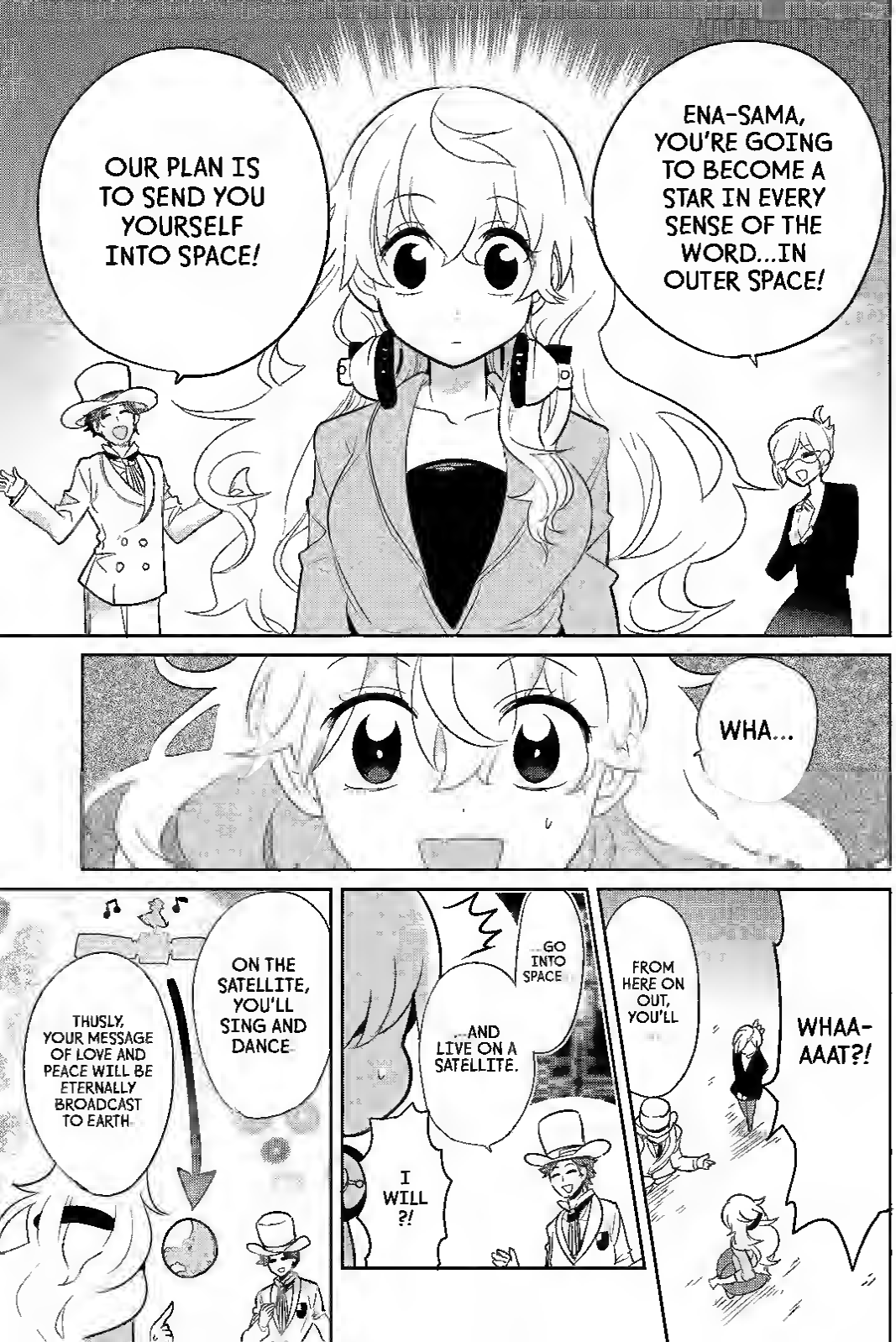
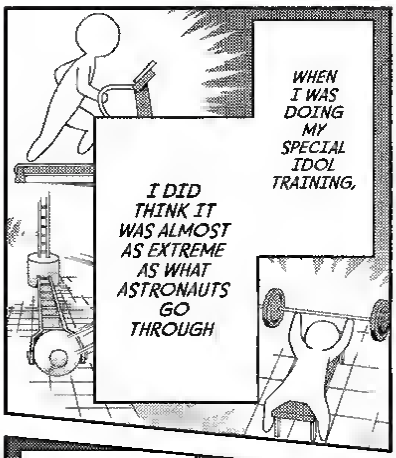
CHAPTER 71: THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN OUTER SPACE
MORE THAN A MILLION DOLLAR NIGHT VIEW...
MORE THAN A GLITTERING GEM.
TAKAHASHI-SAN IS LISTENING.
I'D RATHER LISTEN TO A CONVERSATION FROM YOU TWO.
YU HOKUO

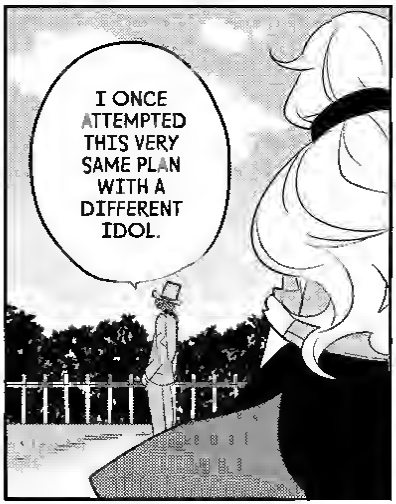
JAPAN!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG!
I'M FINALLY HOME!
THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S JAPAN, ENA-SAN!
AND THIS IS THE VERY SPOT...
...WHERE EVERYONE WILL EXPERIENCE YOUR MAGNIFI-CENT AURA!
THIS IS WHERE WE'LL BEGIN OUR PLAN!
YOUR FINAL DESTINATION AS WELL AS YOUR STARTING POINT!
HA HA. AURA, HUH?

WELL, THAT DAY...
I DID HAVE TWO EAVES-DROPPING SESSIONS IN A ROW.
I'M DEFINITELY IN TOP FORM.
NOW THEN! WE'RE HERE!
BUT I'M NOT SURE ABOUT AN AURA...
ISN'T THIS...THE SPACE CENTER?
UMM... WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE DOING HERE?
I'D BE HAPPY TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION, ENA-SAMA.
THIS IS THE GRAND PLAN THAT THE AMEKARI GROUP HAS SET IN MOTION.
IN OTHER WORDS


ENA-SAMA, YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME A STAR IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD...IN OUTER SPACE!
OUR PLAN IS TO SEND YOU YOURSELF INTO SPACE!
WHA...
WHAA-AAAT?!
FROM HERE ON OUT, YOU'LL
...GO INTO SPACE
...AND LIVE ON A SATELLITE.
I WILL ?!
ON THE SATELLITE, YOU'LL SING AND DANCE
THUSLY, YOUR MESSAGE OF LOVE AND PEACE WILL BE ETERNALLY BROADCAST TO EARTH


WHEN I WAS DOING MY SPECIAL IDOL TRAINING,
I DID THINK IT WAS ALMOST AS EXTREME AS WHAT ASTRONAUTS GO THROUGH

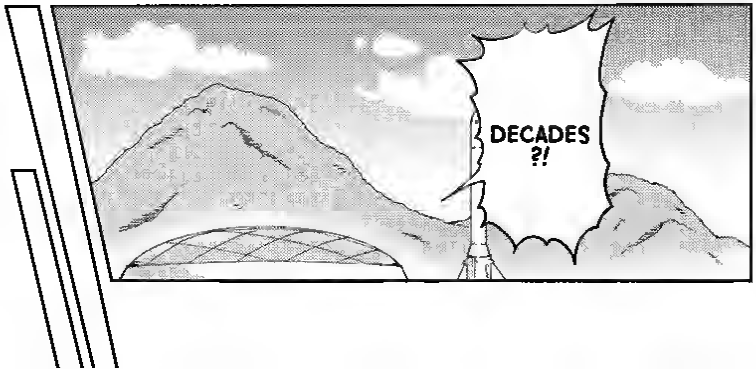
BUT.. DON'T TELL ME... IT REALLY WAS ASTRONAUT TRAINING?!
IN THE PAST..

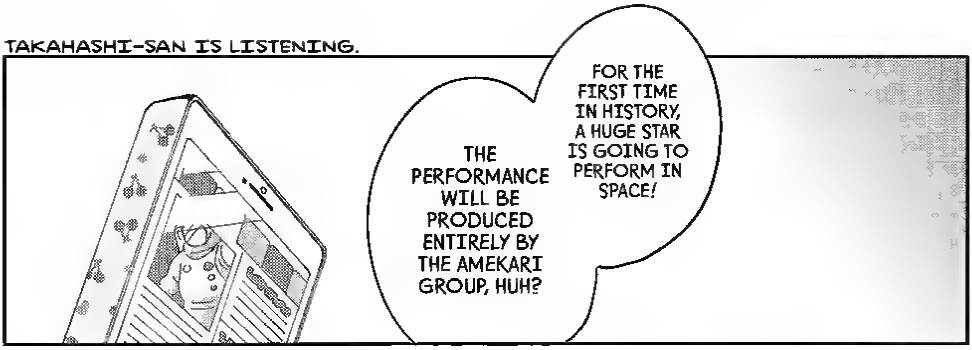

I ONCE ATTEMPTED THIS VERY SAME PLAN WITH A DIFFERENT IDOL.

YOU CAN'T BE A TRUE IDOL IF YOU REMAIN WITHIN ARM'S REACH OF THE COMMON FOLK!
IF YOU WANT TO BE AN IDOL THAT CAN SAVE THE WORLD, YOU HAVE TO BECOME A BIG STAR!
H-H-HE'S LITERALLY GOING TO MAKE ME A STAR?!

THIS TIME I'LL MAKE SURE IT'S A SMASHING SUCCESS!
IT NEVER CAME TO FRUITION.
AT THE TIME, I JUST DIDN'T HAVE QUITE ENOUGH MONEY TO PULL IT OFF.
WHENEVER PEOPLE LOOK UP AT THE SKY...
THEY'LL THINK OF YOU AND FEEL HAPPY. THAT'S THE WORLD I WILL CREATE!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANT TO HAPPEN.
THERE COULD BE NO GREATER CHARITY THAN THIS!
CHARI-TY?
AMEKARI-SAN AND THE PEOPLE HE WORKS WITH ARE DOING ALL THIS FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD ?
IT'S SUCH A COLOSSAL IDEA THAT I WAS JUST BEWIL-DERED BUT STILL!
IF THIS IS SOME-THING...
..THAT I CAN REALLY DO...

ENA-SAN, LET'S DO OUR BEST!
RIGHT!
YOU'LL SPEND YEARS-- NO
SPACE, SHMACE. BRING IT ON!
YEAH!
YOU'LL SPEND DECADES UP IN SPACE. I IMAGINE IT'LL BE VERY HARD ON YOU.
BUT THAT'S JUST THE FATE OF A STAR!
I'M SURE YOU'RE MORE THAN CAPABLE!


DECADES ?!


FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, A HUGE STAR IS GOING TO PERFORM IN SPACE!
THE PERFORMANCE WILL BE PRODUCED ENTIRELY BY THE AMEKARI GROUP, HUH?

BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT HOW WE, WELL...
THE ENTIRE CLASS GOT INVITED, IT'S KIND OF... YOU KNOW?
THE PERFORMER GOING UP IS A CERTAIN IDOL...
APPARENTLY JUST WHO IT IS WILL BE A SECRET UNTIL THE PERFORMANCE.
ODD-SIZED ALIEN CORNER
SPACE
ENTER
OBSER-
VATION
CORNER

BUT THE KIND OF IDOL I WANTED TO BE IS...
HEY, NARA-KUN.
WHAT I LIKE? IF THAT WERE TRUE, THAT'D BE ONE THING
THEY SAID, "WE'RE OVERJOYED SHE'S FOUND A PLACE WHERE SHE CAN SPREAD HER WINGS AND DO AS SHE LIKES."
ISN'T IT WONDERFUL THAT I GOT PERMISSION FROM YOUR PARENTS?
AM I REALLY GOING TO END UP IN SPACE?
OH NO.
GOSSIP ABOUT ME IS THE TALK OF THE TOWN, I SEE

OH, IT'S NARA-KUN AND MIKAGE-KUN
NARA-KUN, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ALL THIS?
HMM... SPACE, HUH?
I GUESS EVEN THEY'LL BE TALKING ABOUT ME ON A DAY LIKE TODAY.
LIFE-SIZED ALIEN CORNER
LET'S SEE...
IF IT WERE UP TO ME.
UGH... THIS ISN'T HOW I WANTED THEM TO REALIZE I EXIST.
I THINK MARS WOULD BE A GREAT PLACE FOR EXPLORING!
MARS, HUH? GOING CLASSIC IS ALWAYS GOOD!
THAT HAS ABSO-LUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!
NOTHING AT ALL!

EAVES-DROPPING IS WHERE MY HEART IS... IN OTHER WORDS, MY HOME PLANET!
THAT'S RIGHT!
AH, THE LAST BEACON OF NORMALCY IN MY CRAZY DAY-TO-DAY LIFE!
IT PUTS ME AT EASE TO KNOW THESE TWO WILL NEVER CHANGE.
LET'S BREATH IN SOME FRESH AIR FROM THIS ATMO-SPHERE!
AFTER ALL, I JUST SORT OF HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR THEM TALKING!
ENA-SAMA?
AKE YOU GOING TO TAKE IN THE SIGHTS? WE'LL WAIT FOR YOU
SPACE, HUH?
I WONDER WHAT WOULD BE APPROPRI-ATE TO BRING FOR THE TRIP
LET'S SEE— WATER, FOOD, A WATER RECYCLER, A WAY TO COMMUNI-CATE—
WELL, THE FIRST THING I'D PACK WOULD BE...
OH.
THIS CONVERSA-TION MIGHT ACTUALLY HAVE SOME-THING TO DO WITH ME NOW
IF YOU WERE REALLY GOING TO SPACE, TO MARS—
HOW WOULD YOU PREPARE FOR YOUR TRIP?

A SINGLE FLOWER.
THAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU'D PACK?!
WHY A FLOWER?
ARE YOU PART OF SOME NATURE-LOVING ELITE FORCE?
YOU'D BE BETTER OFF PRIORITIZING THE ESSENTIALS
OR IS THE FLOWER SUPPOSED TO BE A PRESENT FOR THE MARTIANS?
A SINGLE FLOWER, HUH?
THAT'S AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY.
IT IS?!
WHY DON'T WE WORRY ABOUT SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT?
LIKE MAYBE WATER OR FOOD!
YUP.

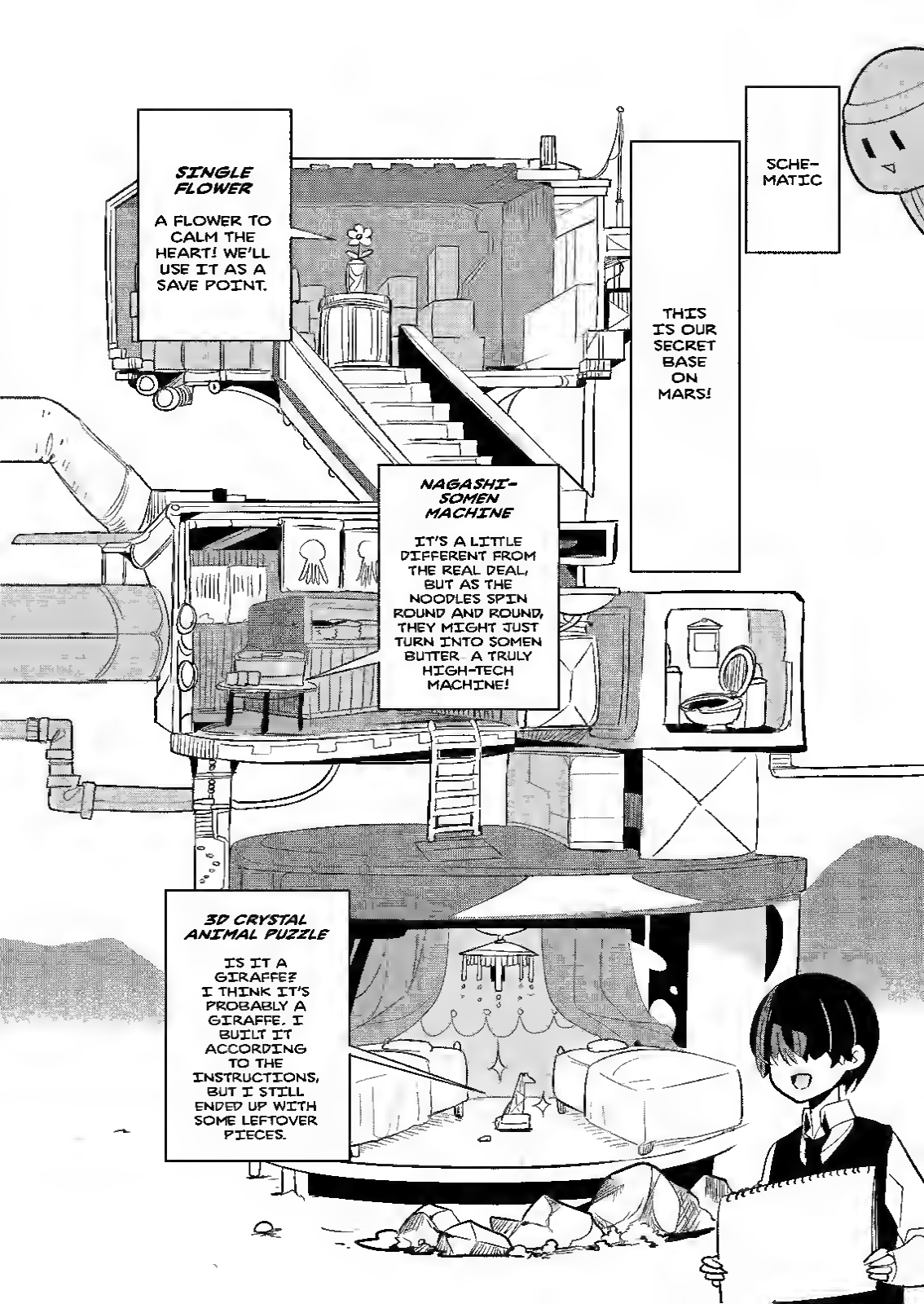
OH. IF THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE GOING FOR, THEN I SORT OF GET IT.
BUT IT ALONE CAN KEEP YOU FROM FORGETTING THE SCENERY OF YOUR HOMELAND.
IT'S JUST A SINGLE FLOWER,
I STILL WOULDN'T SAY IT'S ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THOUGH.
THEN I'LL BRING SOMETHING FROM MY BIRTHPLACE TOO.
IF THE FIRST THING WE PACK IS A FLOWER,
THEN THE NEXT THING IS
A NAGASHI-SOMEN MACHINE.
EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVEN'T PACKED ANY WATER OR FOOD YET!
THAT KIND OF NOVELTY IS FUN AT FIRST, BUT ONCE YOU GET BORED, YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT.
KEEP IN MIND THAT SPACE IS PRECIOUS IN THE CARGO HOLD!
HMM THEN FOR OUR THIRD ITEM,
I'D PICK. .

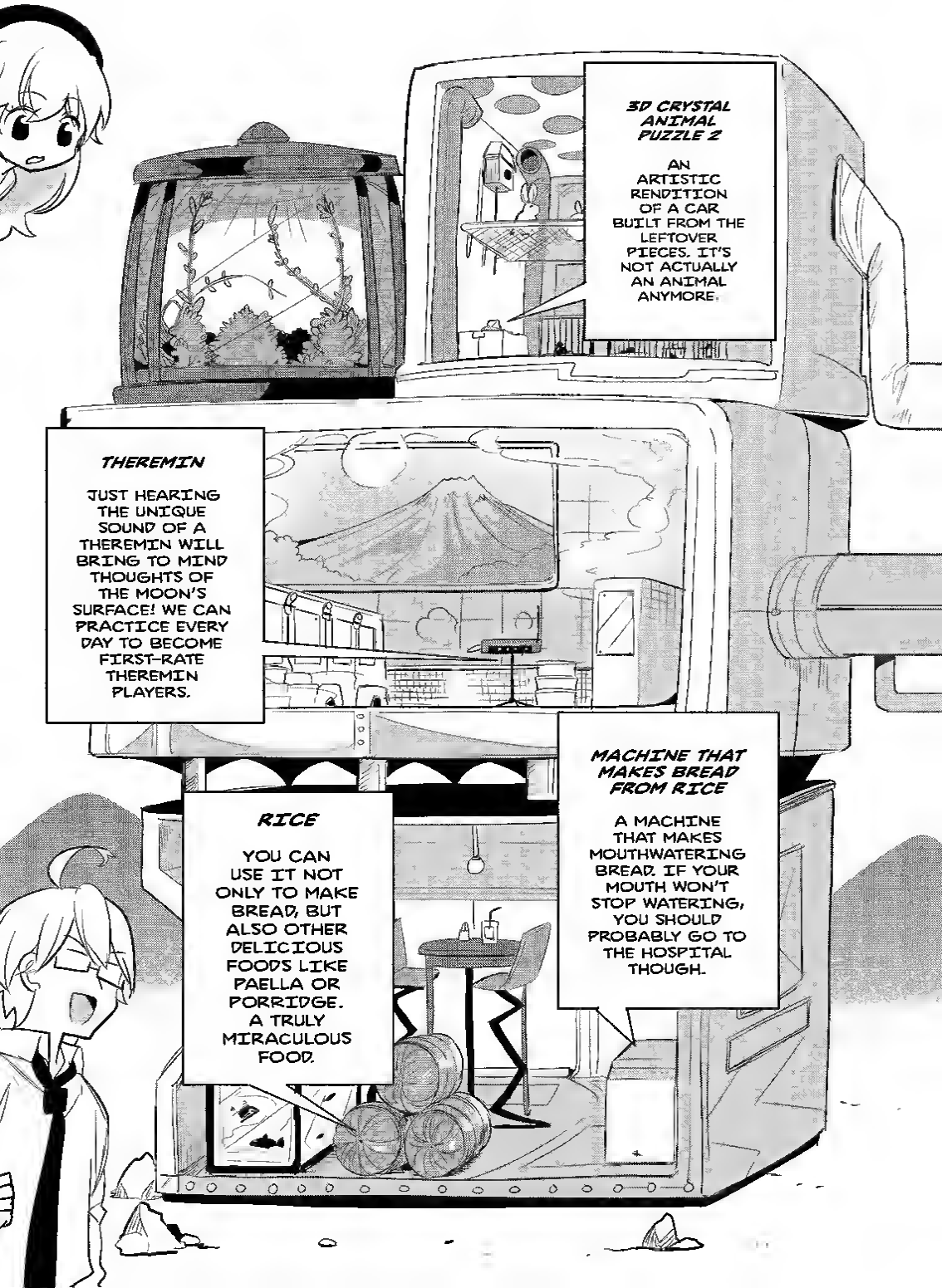
WHAT... DID... I... JUST... SAY?!
ONE OF THOSE 3D CRYSTAL PUZZLES!
I'D GET ONE THAT LOOKED LIKE AN ANIMAL WHEN IT WAS DONE.
OH, DID I HAVE ONE OF THESE?
THOSE CRYSTAL PUZZLES ARE THE KIND OF THING...
IT'S A MYSTERIOUS WORK OF ART ONLY TO BE SEEN DURING SPRING CLEANING.
...YOU JUST LOSE IN YOUR ROOM AFTER THREE MONTHS.
CRYSTAL, HUH?
THAT'S VERY SPACE-LIKE. GOOD.
IT DOESN'T NEED TO BE SPACE-LIKE
YOU'LL GET PLENTY OF THE SPACE VIBE WHILE YOU'RE UP THERE.
CHOOSE WATER AND FOOD ALREADY!

ARE YOU OKAY ?!
THAT SURE IS SPACE-LIKE!
LET'S PACK MORE SPACE-LIKE STUFF.
WILL YOU AT LEAST LEARN HOW TO PLAY IT PROPERLY BEFORE GETTING BORED OF IT?
LIKE THAT ELECTRONIC MUSICAL INSTRUMENT, THE THEREMIN.

THEY FINALLY ADDED FOOD TO THEIR LIST!
BUT JUST BLAND CARBS!
WE'D BETTER NOT FORGET THE RICE
THAT'S NOT JUST SPACE-LIKE, IT'S FUTURIS-TIC!
ALSO, WE'LL NEED SOME KIND OF MACHINE TO MAKE BREAD FROM RICE!

OH, OUR STRONG-HOLD ON MARS, HUH?
SOUNDS ADVEN-TUROUS!
I MADE A BLUEPRINT FOR OUR SECRET BASE.
THAT'S GOOD LET'S SWITCH GEARS NOW
ARE THEY JUST GOING TO THROW IT ALL OUT INTO SPACE WHEN THEY'RE DONE WITH IT?
WHY DOES IT SEEM THEY'RE IN-TENTIONALLY SELECTING THINGS THAT YOU EVENTUALLY WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH?


SCHE-
MATIC
THIS IS OUR SECRET BASE ON MARS!
SINGLE FLOWER
A FLOWER TO CALM THE HEART! WE'LL USE IT AS A SAVE POINT.
NAGASHI-SOMEN MACHINE
IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM THE REAL DEAL, BUT AS THE NOODLES SPIN ROUND AND ROUND, THEY MIGHT JUST TURN INTO SOMEN BUTTER. A TRULY HIGH-TECH MACHINE!
3D CRYSTAL ANIMAL PUZZLE
IS IT A GIRAFFE? I THINK IT'S PROBABLY A GIRAFFE. I BUILT IT ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS, BUT I STILL ENDED UP WITH SOME LEFTOVER PIECES.


3D CRYSTAL ANIMAL PUZZLE 2
AN ARTISTIC RENDITION OF A CAR BUILT FROM THE LEFTOVER PIECES. IT'S NOT ACTUALLY AN ANIMAL ANYMORE.
THEREMIN
JUST HEARING THE UNIQUE SOUND OF A THEREMIN WILL BRING TO MIND THOUGHTS OF THE MOON'S SURFACE! WE CAN PRACTICE EVERY DAY TO BECOME FIRST-RATE THEREMIN PLAYERS.
MACHINE THAT MAKES BREAD FROM RICE
A MACHINE THAT MAKES MOUTHWATERING BREAD. IF YOUR MOUTH WON'T STOP WATERING, YOU SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO THE HOSPITAL THOUGH.
RICE
YOU CAN USE IT NOT ONLY TO MAKE BREAD, BUT ALSO OTHER DELICIOUS FOODS LIKE PAELLA OR PORRIDGE. A TRULY MIRACULOUS FOOD.

THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HERE...
...THAT YOU'D NEED FOR LIFE ON MARS!
NOW THAT I TAKE A CLOSER LOOK, EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT HERE IS A WASTE OF SPACE!
YOU SAID IT!
SO YOU NOTICED TOO!
IF YOU'VE WISED UP, THEN BRING SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT!
BUT HAVING STUFF THAT'S A WASTE OF SPACE...

...IS WHAT'S MOST IMPORT-ANT TO US.
IT'S IMPORT-ANT TO HAVE THINGS THAT ARE A WASTE OF SPACE?
I GUESS THAT'S WHAT THEY MEAN WHEN THEY SAY HAPPINESS IS OFTEN CLOSE AT HAND.
SPACE IS CERTAINLY VAST WITH ITS OWN CHARMS.
BUT WHAT WE NEED TO BE HAPPY...
...IS SUR-PRISINGLY ALWAYS RIGHT THERE BESIDE US.
CAN WE ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE?
OF COURSE!

LIFE-SIZED ALIEN CORNER
ADD AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE!
AFTER ALL, THEY'RE YOUR BLUE-PRINTS.
SHAPE THEM WITH YOUR OWN HANDS!
I HAVE TO TELL HIM! NO HOLDING BACK!
I'M THE ONE IN CONTROL!
AND THE PERSON DRAFTING THEM THAT'S RIGHT
YOUR OWN BLUE-PRINTS

English Digital Edition
Chapter 071

Takahashi-san is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。
Yu Hokuo

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